



FEMA

Disaster News

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Deadline Passed, Assistance Funds Still Being Processed

November storms final update

LACEY, Wash. - Even though the opportunity to register for federal and state assistance passed on Feb. 12, applications continue to be processed. To date, more than \$4,528,389 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery assistance have been disbursed. Currently, 2,388 people have applied for FEMA assistance and 1,119 applicants for assistance were seen at Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs).

Washington residents or businesses that had losses or damages from the Nov. 2-11 flooding and are registered can still get information on their individual cases or update their application by calling FEMA's Helpline **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the speech or hearing impaired.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also continues to process applications submitted before the Feb. 12 deadline. More than \$9 Million in low-interest disaster loans to Washington residents and businesses to use for their recovery have been approved.

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers are now closed. The deadline to return SBA applications for property damage was Feb. 12. The toll-free number to contact SBA is (800) 659-2955.

For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to help meet working capital needs caused by the severe storms and flooding which occurred November 2-11. This assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. The deadline to return an SBA EIDL application for working capital is September 12, 2007.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with State and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

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